



MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT

# DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



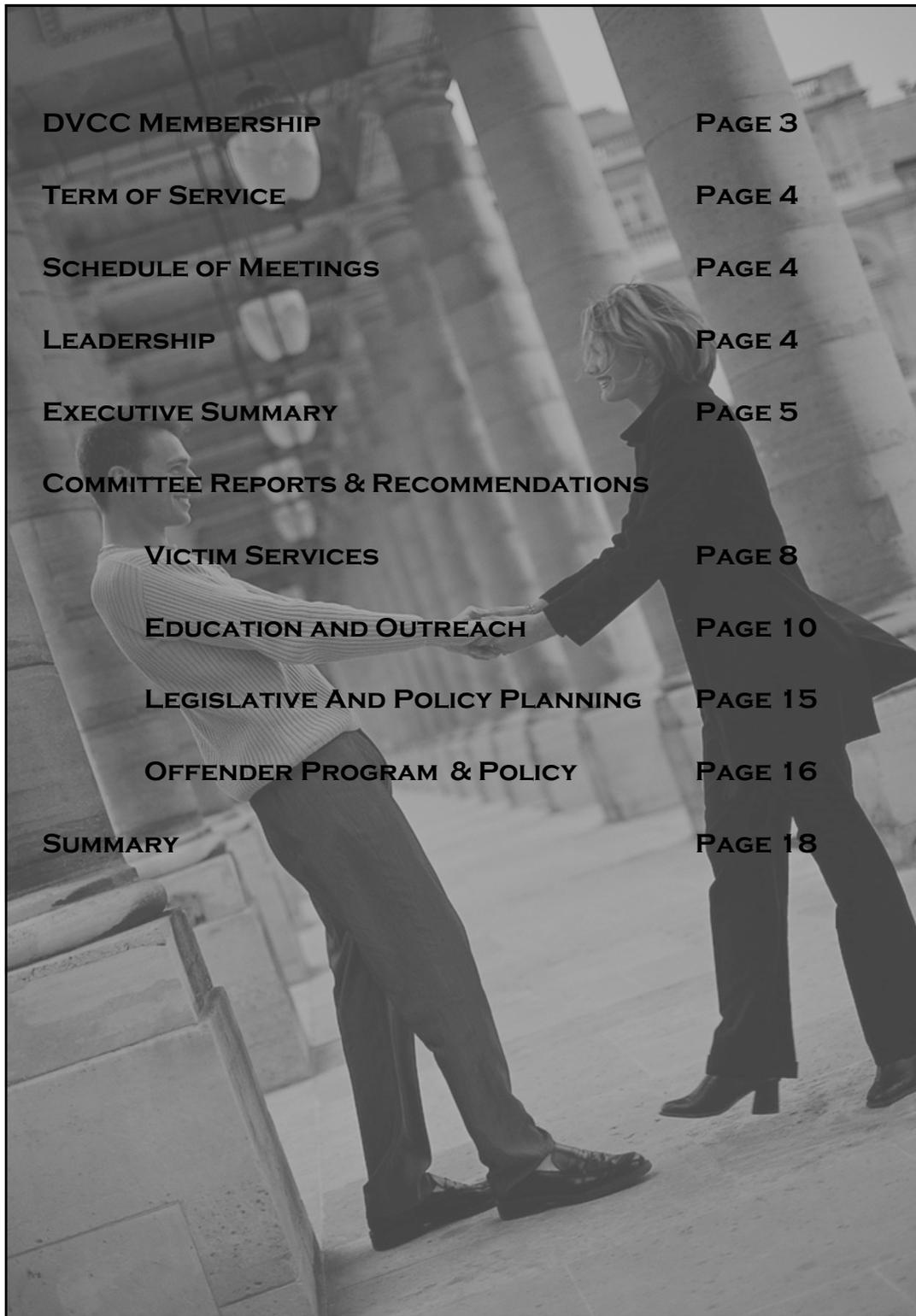
## MISSION

- ◆ *To reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a safe community for families to live free of abuse.*

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2016**



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# MEMBERSHIP

## EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS

**TERESA BENNETT**

*SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR, CRISIS SERVICES  
FOR **UMA AHLUWALIA**, DIRECTOR  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES*

**DEBBIE FEINSTEIN**

*ASSISTANT STATE'S ATTORNEY  
FOR **JOHN MCCARTHY**  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY STATE'S ATTORNEY'S OFFICE*

**RUSSELL HAMILL**

*ASSISTANT CHIEF  
FOR **J. THOMAS MANGER**, CHIEF  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE*

**THE HONORABLE SIDNEY KATZ**

*COUNCILMEMBER  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COUNCIL*

**BOBBE MINTZ**

*COMMISSIONER  
FOR **JODI FINKELSTEIN**, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY COMMISSION FOR WOMEN*

**THE HONORABLE JOHN MOFFETT**

*ASSOCIATE JUDGE  
FOR **THE HONORABLE EUGENE WOLFE**  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
DISTRICT COURT OF MARYLAND FOR  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY*

**DARREN M. POPKIN**

*SHERIFF  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF*

**THE HONORABLE KARLA SMITH**  
**CHAIR, DVCC**

*ASSOCIATE JUDGE  
FOR **THE HONORABLE JOHN W. DEBELIUS, III**  
ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY CIRCUIT COURT*

**REBECCA SMONDROWSKI**

*BOARD MEMBER  
FOR **MICHAEL A. DURSO**  
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

**WILLIAM SOLLOD**  
**VICE CHAIR, DVCC**

*FIELD SUPERVISOR  
DIVISION OF PAROLE AND PROBATION  
MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY  
AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES*

**ANGELA TALLEY**

*CHIEF, PRE-TRIAL SERVICES  
FOR **ROBERT GREEN**, DIRECTOR  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF  
CORRECTION AND REHABILITATION*

## PUBLIC MEMBERS

**JULIAN AVENILLA**  
*STUDENT MEMBER*

**DOROTHY FAIT, ESQ.**  
*COMMUNITY MEMBER*

**CHERYL KRAVITZ**  
*COMMUNITY MEMBER*

**RESA LEVY**  
*COMMUNITY MEMBER*

**ESHIGO OKASILI, ESQ.**  
*COMMUNITY MEMBER*

**SHEILA KAMDAR**  
*COMMUNITY MEMBER*

## STAFF

**THOMAS MANION**  
*PROGRAM MANAGER  
MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF*



## COUNCIL INFORMATION

### **TERM OF SERVICE**

There are seventeen voting members of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) who serve without compensation and are appointed by the County Executive and confirmed by the County Council. Five are Ex-Officio members who serve at the request of the County Council: the Administrative Judge of the Circuit Court; the Administrative Judge of the District Court; the Sheriff; the State's Attorney; and the Regional Administrator for the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. There are six Ex-Officio members who are appointed by the County Executive: a member of the County Council selected by the Council President; the Directors of the Montgomery County Departments of Correction and Rehabilitation; Health and Human Services; and Police; the Executive Director of the Montgomery County Commission for Women; and the President of the Board of Education for Montgomery County Public Schools. In addition, there are five members of the general public appointed by the County Executive for renewable three year terms, one of whom is an attorney representing domestic violence victims, and four who have a demonstrated interest in domestic violence issues, including at least one who is a survivor of domestic violence. In 2010, the DVCC's code pertaining to membership was amended to add a student member. The student member is a high school junior or senior who is appointed to serve a one year term which can be renewed for one additional year.

### **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS**

The DVCC meets bi-monthly on the second Thursday of the month, and has met sixty times since September 2006. Meetings are open to the public.

### **LEADERSHIP**

The January 2016 meeting, during which Chair and Vice Chair elections were scheduled to take place, had to be canceled. In March 2016, the DVCC re-elected The Honorable Karla Smith, Associate Judge representing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, as Chair; and re-elected William Sollod, Regional Administrator for the Division of Parole and Probation representing the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, as Vice Chair.



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the ninth year since its creation, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) has advanced its mission of reducing the incidence of domestic violence and creating a safe community where families are free of abuse. In 2015-2016, the four committees, Victim Services, Education and Outreach, Legislative and Policy Planning and Offender Program and Policy, have each identified focus areas and made progress on executing recommendations from the previous report. This report summarizes the accomplishments of the past year and makes recommendations for the next year.

Special thanks go to the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation for its continued, unwavering support of Domestic Violence Coordinating Council initiatives and the Montgomery County Family Justice Center.

### **ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

- ◆ Provided space to bring the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP) on-site at the FJC to provide culturally competent domestic violence services to victims in the Asian/Pacific Islander community;
- ◆ Partnered with the Montgomery County FJC Foundation and Career Catchers to offer scholarship assistance to FJC clients interested in career training or otherwise furthering their education at Montgomery College;
- ◆ Submitted a proposal for Montgomery County supervised visitation and monitored exchange services to the County Executive;
- ◆ Collaborated with multiple Montgomery County agencies and community organizations for the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference, which was held on March 20, 2016 and had record attendance numbers;
- ◆ Coordinated the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Public Service Announcement (PSA) Video Contest, which had a record number of entries;
- ◆ Presented the Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum to a record 2,800 youth participants in Montgomery County Public Schools as well as various youth groups in the community;
- ◆ Continued expansion and development of the Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM) program at Richard Montgomery High School, Springbrook High School, and Montgomery Blair High School, with hopefully more schools to come;
- ◆ Continued the FJC Five-Language Information Card initiative, which is a discreet, multi-lingual outreach program that promotes the FJC and the services it provides to both English and non-English-speaking victims of domestic violence and their families;



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## **ACCOMPLISHMENTS (CONTINUED)**

- ◆ Collaborated with the Montgomery County Commission for Women, Public Information Office, and other agencies to coordinate a domestic violence outreach campaign, planned for Fall 2016;
- ◆ Carefully monitored domestic violence-related legislation that was proposed during the 2016 legislative session in the Maryland General Assembly;
- ◆ Continued facilitation of a cooperative program that expands the Montgomery County Pre-Trial Supervision Unit's GPS monitoring system to include 24-hour coverage for domestic violence cases;
- ◆ Hosted a Montgomery County Domestic Violence Offender Program Roundtable to promote communication and synergy among various Montgomery County agencies and organizations that work with offenders as part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence;
- ◆ Accepted an invitation from the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland Baltimore County to the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services to participate in a research study on abuser intervention programs in the state.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016-2017**

- ◆ Ongoing collaboration among FJC agency partners and the Montgomery County FJC Foundation to continue identifying gaps in domestic violence victim services, and then exploring appropriate, sustainable solutions to fill those gaps;
- ◆ Continued collaboration with the County Executive, County Council, and other County agencies and stakeholders on making supervised visitation and monitored exchange services a reality in Montgomery County;
- ◆ Continued collaboration with county agencies, community organizations, and schools to increase awareness and prevention of teen dating violence through the Choose Respect Montgomery initiative;
- ◆ Engage young men in domestic violence prevention through continued promotion and expansion of the CBIM program;
- ◆ Promote the Family Justice Center and its services through continued expansion of the FJC Five-Language Information Card initiative;
- ◆ Implement the planned Fall 2016 domestic violence community outreach campaign through collaboration with multiple county agencies;



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## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2016-2017 (CONTINUED)**

- ◆ Continued collaboration with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to monitor and promote legislation that supports the mission of the DVCC;
- ◆ Continued facilitation of the Pre-Trial Services GPS monitoring program, ensuring appropriate training for Pre-Trial and Police staff, and making procedural adjustments as necessary to ensure the program functions appropriately;
- ◆ Continued review and assessment of the recommendations from the Domestic Violence Offender Program Roundtable, and selection of one or more recommendations to take on as initiatives;
- ◆ Hosting additional Montgomery County Domestic Violence Offender Program Roundtable events as necessary;
- ◆ Continued participation in the abuser intervention program research study being conducted by the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



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# VICTIM SERVICES COMMITTEE

## CHAIR: DARREN POPKIN, SHERIFF

The Victim Services Committee has been collaborating actively with Montgomery County Family Justice Center (FJC) agency partners, the Montgomery County FJC Foundation and community volunteers for ongoing sustainability and effective operation of the FJC. The Committee is focused on establishing and funding FJC programs that not only promote safety for victims of domestic violence, but also assist these victims in locating a path to sustainability. Of specific interest this year was expanding the list of FJC partners both on and off-site, as well as continuing to explore the possibility of establishing a supervised visitation/monitored exchange program in Montgomery County. Primary objectives successfully achieved in the previous year are outlined below, as well as recommendations for the coming year.

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER**

Since opening its doors in April 2009, more than seven thousand victims representing over one hundred different countries of origin have sought services at the Montgomery County FJC with the goal of ending domestic violence in their lives. FJCs are recognized nationally by the law enforcement, medical and mental health communities as a “best-practice” for responding to domestic violence and providing services to victims and their families. Domestic violence victims who come to the FJC are able to receive a broad array of critical Montgomery County services, which are provided in a safe, welcoming environment that also offers on-site child care to support clients while they access FJC services; and help with basic needs such as shelter, food, housing, and transportation, all of which are often lost to victims forced to flee their homes.

### **EXPANSIONS IN CLIENT SERVICES**

At the beginning of the fiscal year, the Montgomery County FJC on-site partners included the Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, Montgomery County State’s Attorney’s Office, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, House of Ruth - Maryland, Catholic Charities, the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) and Career Catchers. These partners provide a vast array of services to FJC clients and their families, including comprehensive safety planning, service of protective orders, welfare checks, criminal investigation and prosecution of offenders, therapy for both adults and children, legal representation at protective order hearings, immigration legal services, and career counseling. Off-site partners include the Montgomery County Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services, Chesapeake Counseling Associates, the Muslim Community Center, Montgomery College, the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation, Court Watch Montgomery, and Women Who Care Ministries. Nearly all on-site FJC partners have staff that are bi-lingual in English and Spanish, and also have access to a language line to provide services in the language most comfortable for the victim. This year, the FJC officially welcomed the Asian/Pacific Islander Domestic Violence Resource Project (DVRP) as an on-site partner. DVRP was an off-site partner last year, and this year, the FJC was able to offer DVRP its own office space.



DVRP provides services and resource referrals to victims of domestic violence in the Asian/Pacific Islander community. Between all of their staff, they speak more than 20 Asian/Pacific Islander languages, a huge asset that benefits an underserved community in our County.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Victim Services Committee recommends ongoing collaboration among FJC agency partners and the FJC Foundation to continue identifying gaps in domestic violence victim services, and then exploring appropriate, sustainable solutions to fill those gaps.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTER**

### **DEVELOP A PROPOSAL FOR A SUPERVISED VISITATION CENTER IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY**

In 2014, County Executive Isiah Leggett established a work group to address the issue of supervised visitation in Montgomery County. This collaborative group included members representing the Montgomery County Circuit Court, the District Court of Maryland for Montgomery County, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services, and other county agencies. The Victim Services Committee, as part of this work group, participated in numerous discussions regarding the feasibility of establishing a Supervised Visitation Center in Montgomery County, and what such a center would look like. The work group drafted a proposal in late-2014 for a Montgomery County Supervised Visitation Center. Upon further review, it was ultimately decided that the cost of the proposed center, which was substantially higher than initially anticipated, prevented the work group from moving forward with the proposal at that time.

Since then, the DVCC has decided to take on the supervised visitation and monitored exchange issue again, with a focus on paring down the former proposal into something more financially feasible. In the Spring of 2016, a new proposal to establish supervised visitation and monitored exchange services in Montgomery County was completed and submitted to the County Executive for review. The new proposal offered three implementation options: (1) to establish a monitored exchange program only; (2) to establish a full, combined supervised visitation and monitored exchange program; and (3) to begin with a monitored exchange program with planned future expansion to include supervised visitation services after two years. Budget estimates were provided for all three options, noting also that utilizing a facility already owned by the County would substantially decrease the upfront and operating costs of the program. Furthermore, it is imperative that, regardless of which option is ultimately selected, the supervised visitation and/or monitored exchange program must adhere to the standards and best practices set for the by the national Supervised Visitation Network. Since the submission of the new proposal, several meetings have been held between all of the relevant stakeholders, and plans are being developed to bring these proposed programs to fruition.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Victim Services Committee recommends continued collaboration with the County Executive, County Council, and other County agencies and stakeholders on making supervised visitation and monitored exchange services a reality in Montgomery County.



# EDUCATION AND OUTREACH COMMITTEE

**CHAIR: DEBBIE FEINSTEIN**

The Education and Outreach Committee continued to focus on its teen dating violence prevention initiative during the past year. This initiative, titled Choose Respect Montgomery, includes three primary programs: the annual conference for teens, their parents, educators, and youth service providers; the public service announcement video contest for teens; and the healthy teen dating curriculum presentations which are presented in the County's middle and high schools. The Committee also expanded the Coaching Boys Into Men program, which utilizes the unique role of coaches in the lives of young male athletes to teach them to be respectful both on and off the field. Furthermore, the Committee continued to implement its FJC 5-language card program, which places throughout the county small, informational cards with Family Justice Center services and contact information listed in five different languages. Finally, the Committee is working with the Commission for Women, Sheriff's Office, State's Attorney's Office, Police Department, Public Information Office, Regional Service Centers, and other County programs on a domestic violence outreach campaign. Highlights from each of these activities, as well as recommendations for the future, are listed below.

## **CHOOSE RESPECT MONTGOMERY: TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION INITIATIVE**

### **HEALTHY TEEN DATING CONFERENCE**

The 7th Annual Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Conference was held on Sunday, March 20, 2016 at Richard Montgomery High School. Funded by Verizon Wireless through its partnership with the Montgomery County FJC Foundation, and sponsored by the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC), Montgomery County Public Schools, and numerous other Montgomery County agencies and organizations, the purpose of this annual conference is to promote respect in dating relationships and to raise community awareness about the prevalence of teen dating violence. The conference, which was promoted using the hashtag #RespectYourSelfie, focused on abuse through technology and social media, and promoting a healthy self-image.

This year, a record 412 teens, parents, educators, and youth service providers attended the half-day conference. Including public officials, volunteers and staff, there were nearly 500 people attended in attendance, more than ever before. Attendees came from more than 50 different schools, and were split 70% female, 30% male. As soon as attendees arrived, they walked the Red Carpet and took selfies with our opening session emcee Tommy McFly (94.7 FreshFM) and public officials. Attendees were encouraged to post their selfies on social media using #RespectYourSelfie. Through our continued partnership with Zoomph, a live social media feed with rotating tiles was running in the main auditorium, showcasing all posts and pictures that used the conference hashtag. Through this technology, attendees were also able to live-tweet answers to questions posed by the emcees.



The opening program also consisted of an incredibly powerful testimonial from a young woman who lost her friend to dating abuse last year. She implored attendees not to be bystanders, and to seek help if they or someone they know is suffering from abuse. Students were then broken down by grade level into workshops, which were developed by the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA), and functioned as a “choose your own path” activity. In groups of 3-4, participants were assigned one of many characters who were in a situation involving dating abuse, making various decisions that influenced the narrative and following the story through to one of several endings. These stories were then used as a jumping-off point for a group discussion about these issues. Youth service providers and educators participated in similar workshops, while parents all participated in one workshop session led by Cheryl Kravitz, a member of the DVCC and a domestic violence survivor. Following the workshops, attendees reconvened in the auditorium with closing emcee Toby Knapp (Hot 99.5), at which time the winners of the Public Service Announcement Video Contest were announced, and the conference was brought to a close with the distribution of raffle prizes and free pizza for all attendees.

The conference evaluations were very positive, with more than 95% of the attendees reporting that the event either met or exceeded their expectations. Particularly, attendees enjoyed the selfie red carpet and the survivor testimonials. The conference evaluations were assessed by conference planners and will be taken into consideration when planning future events.

The DVCC is very appreciative of the event sponsorship from Verizon Wireless through its partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation. Special thanks also go to Montgomery County Public Schools, JCADA, Zoomph and the numerous other county and community partners that made the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Choose Respect Conference a huge success. Plans for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual conference scheduled for Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Richard Montgomery High School are already underway.

## **PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT VIDEO CONTEST**

For the seventh consecutive year, the DVCC coordinated the Public Service Announcement Video Contest for local teens in middle and high school. This contest is intended to evoke teens’ awareness and perspective on the issue of teen dating violence, while also allowing them to be creative. Participants were challenged to submit a 60-second video promoting attention to dating abuse. They were also asked to include resource information such as the phone number to a local or national helpline. A record 59 videos were submitted this year by 210 students from 15 different schools. The Top 3 videos received cash prizes, and two “Honorable Mention” videos received gift cards for each member of their team. This year’s contest was sponsored by Verizon Wireless through its partnership with the Montgomery County Family Justice Center Foundation. Winners were announced at the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Choose Respect Healthy Teen Dating Conference.

The DVCC and its partners believe this contest provides a worthwhile opportunity for teens, and will launch the 2017 contest in October 2016. Entries will be accepted in English and Spanish, and cash prizes will be awarded to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners, which will be announced at the 2017 Choose Respect Conference on Sunday, April 2, 2017 at Richard Montgomery High School.



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## HEALTHY TEEN DATING CURRICULUM

The Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum is available in both English and Spanish. It is an instructional presentation based on nationally recognized dating abuse prevention curricula to include: The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Choose Respect, Liz Claiborne, Love is Not Abuse and Break the Cycle. The 45 minute Prezi presentation provides multiple opportunities for student involvement, and features brief videos on various dating abuse topics such as verbal abuse, abuse through technology and how to intervene as a responsible witness. The conversations with teens during the presentation specifically focus on:

- 1) Components of healthy dating behaviors such as trust and safe, non-threatening communication;
- 2) Identification of early warning signs of abusive dating behavior to include control, isolation, criticism and manipulation;
- 3) Identification of the roles in abusive dating relationships; and
- 4) Addressing dating violence when it is witnessed in school or among social circles.

Local resources and national teen dating abuse help lines and websites are also discussed. Active participants during the presentation receive candy and/or a silicone Choose Respect Montgomery wristband containing the Choose Respect hashtag #RespectYourSelfie.

The Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum is offered at no cost and was approved for middle and high school students by the Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) Administration and the MCPS Citizen Advisory Board on Family Life and Human Development. Presentation requests are received at the Sheriff's Office from various school personnel, such as health teachers, counselors and school principals. The school principal ultimately approves the presentation for the particular student audience. Representatives of the Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office and Montgomery County Sheriff's Office conduct the presentations.

In its sixth year since implementation, the Choose Respect Montgomery Healthy Teen Dating Curriculum was presented to 2,800 youth participants from MCPS and community groups, representing an increase of 400 over last year.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Choose Respect Montgomery initiative has been a successful prevention and outreach project over the past seven years. It is the recommendation of the Education and Outreach Committee to continue collaboration with county agencies, community organizations, and schools to increase awareness and prevention of teen dating violence through the Choose Respect Montgomery initiative.



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## **ENGAGING YOUNG MEN IN VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

### **COACHING BOYS INTO MEN**

Historically, intimate partner violence prevention has been viewed solely as a women's issue. Anti-violence organizations and programs were established as safe spaces where women exposed to intimate partner and sexual violence could find support and healing. In recent years, however, attention has been drawn to the importance of engaging men and boys in violence prevention as well. Many promising programs that involve young men are being introduced across the United States, including Futures Without Violence's program Coaching Boys Into Men (CBIM). CBIM is a free toolkit that utilizes the unique and important role that coaches play in the lives of young men. These comprehensive tools assist coaches in planning important discussions with athletes about respect for women and girls, and that violence doesn't equal strength. Through CBIM, male athletes learn skills to avoid violence and abuse in their relationships.

Springbrook High School hosted the first CBIM pilot program in Montgomery County, led by varsity football coach Adam Bahr during the 2013-2014 academic year. Due to the success of the pilot program, Springbrook High School fully implemented CBIM as part of the standard football season moving forward. The CBIM program was expanded to Montgomery Blair High School for the 2014-2015 academic year, led by Patrick Dudley, the football team's tight end and character coach. The 2015-2016 academic year saw yet another expansion, as Richard Montgomery High School adopted the program, led by Head Coach Josh Klotz and DVCC Student Member Julian Avenilla, a Richard Montgomery High School senior. The Montgomery County FJC Foundation will continue to support these three schools by funding their year-end banquets, providing free bus transportation to the Choose Respect Conference, and connecting athletes who wish to attend Montgomery College after high school with potential scholarship opportunities.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Education and Outreach Committee recommends engaging young men in domestic violence prevention through continued expansion of the CBIM program.

## **PROMOTING AWARENESS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES**

### **FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER FIVE-LANGUAGE INFORMATION CARDS**

Victims of domestic violence often do not know what services are available to them, or where to go to seek help. In an effort to promote awareness of these resources, the Education and Outreach Committee developed Family Justice Center (FJC) information cards. These cards contain the location of the FJC, contact information, a list of available services, and other important information. The content is presented in five different languages – English, Spanish, French, Chinese and Korean – and is pre-folded to fit discreetly in a pocket or purse. Clear, wall-affixed receptacles were procured for the distribution of these cards. Receptacles and cards are on display in all Montgomery County Regional Services Centers, all Montgomery County public libraries, both District Court locations in Montgomery County – Rockville and Silver Spring – in the courtrooms where protective order cases



are normally heard, and in all of the women's restrooms in the Judicial Center/Circuit Court building. Replenishment protocols are in place for all locations in which the cards are on display, and the initiative continues to be a success. This year, 1,000 cards were sent to each of the six police district headquarters, per request from the Montgomery County Police Department.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Education and Outreach Committee recommends continued promotion of the Family Justice Center and its services through continued maintenance of the FJC Five-Language Information Card initiative.

## **EDUCATING THE COMMUNITY ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RESOURCES FOR VICTIMS**

### **MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN**

This year, the Education and Outreach Committee collaborated with Jodi Finkelstein (Montgomery County Commission for Women), Commander Dave Gillespie (Montgomery County Police Department), and representatives from the Montgomery County Public Information Office and Regional Service Centers on a countywide outreach campaign about domestic violence. The interdisciplinary group met initially in response to a higher-than-usual number of domestic violence related 911 calls and homicides in Commander Gillespie's district. The group worked together to collect and map geographic data on domestic violence-related 911 calls, incident reports, protective orders, and Family Justice Center clients. The data will be used internally to identify areas of the County where more outreach is needed, and where outreach efforts would be most effective. The workgroup is currently working with the County Public Information Office to record Public Service Announcements and design print ads to raise awareness about domestic violence and inform the community where victims can get help.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Education and Outreach Committee recommends continuing to develop and implement the domestic violence public information campaign as planned with the assistance of the Montgomery County Public Information Office and other County agencies and organizations.



# LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY PLANNING COMMITTEE

**CHAIR: DOROTHY FAIT, ESQ.**

The Legislative and Policy Planning Committee focused this year on supporting certain domestic violence-related legislation in the state of Maryland. Below is a summary of supported legislation as well as the committee's recommendation for the coming year.

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE LEGISLATION UPDATES**

Numerous domestic violence-related bills were passed during this year's legislative session, all of which will take effect on October 1, 2016. Pieces of legislation that were of particular interest to the DVCC Legislative and Policy Planning Committee include:

### HB 155/SB 278 - Criminal Law - Stalking and Harassment

Adds language that prohibits a person from engaging in stalking/harassment behaviors if the person intends to cause, or knows, or reasonably should have known, that the conduct would "cause serious emotional distress to another."

### HB 314/SB 346 - Peace Orders - Grounds for Relief

Adds the following offenses to the list for which the petitioner can file for a Peace Order: misuse of telephone facilities and equipment; misuse of electronic communication or interactive computer service; revenge porn; visual surveillance.

### HB 534/SB 924 - Family Law - Protective Orders - Notification of Sunset Repeal

Repeals the termination date related to the notice of service of Protective Orders.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Legislative and Policy Planning Committee recommends ongoing collaboration with the Office of Intergovernmental Relations and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence to monitor and promote legislation that supports the mission of the DVCC.



# OFFENDER PROGRAM AND POLICY COMMITTEE

**CHAIR: ANGELA TALLEY**

The Offender Program and Policy Committee includes members from Montgomery County and Maryland State agencies that focus on domestic violence offender intervention. Committee members remain focused on evaluating offender programs within their individual departments and identifying collaborative opportunities to improve communication and offender services as a whole. The details of the committee's departmental and system review as well as recommendations for improvement are outlined below.

## **CONTINUED FACILITATION OF THE GPS MONITORING PROGRAM UTILIZED BY THE PRE-TRIAL SUPERVISION UNIT IN COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

In 2014, the Offender Program and Policy Committee was tasked with examining the current GPS monitoring program utilized by the Montgomery County Pre-Trial Supervision Unit (PTSU) for potential improvements. The Committee identified that the current system could be improved by expanding to 24-hour coverage, as exclusion zone violations and other GPS alerts are only received and vetted by PTSU staff during business hours due to personnel and budget limitations. Later that year, the Committee developed a 60-day pilot program in which exclusion zone violations that occurred during non-business hours were forwarded to on-call investigators in the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD), Special Victims Investigations Division (SVID). After the pilot program ended, the Committee decided to keep the program in place in the long-term. To facilitate this, PTSU holds regular trainings for MCPD staff on how to receive, identify and vet GPS alerts that they receive.

This year, the SVID expanded to form two separate units - the Adult Sex Crimes Unit and the Domestic Violence/Elder Abuse Unit. Since several new detectives were brought on during this transition, PTSU made sure that all personnel received appropriate training in the GPS monitoring program.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends continued facilitation of the GPS monitoring program, and making any procedural adjustments as necessary to ensure it functions appropriately.

## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER PROGRAM ROUNDTABLE**

The Offender Program and Policy Committee identified the need for increased understanding and communication between the numerous Montgomery County agencies and organizations that work with offenders as part of the coordinated community response to domestic violence. To



facilitate this, the Committee coordinated a Montgomery County Domestic Violence Offender Program Roundtable, which was held on December 1, 2015. The event was moderated by Michael Subin, and hosted by the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) at 1301 Piccard Drive in Rockville. The overall mission was to promote increased synergy between the criminal justice and treatment systems in the county. The roundtable was extremely well attended, and included representatives from the Abused Person's Program, the Abuser Intervention Program, the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office, Montgomery County Police Department, Montgomery County State's Attorney's Office, Montgomery County Pre-Trial Services, Montgomery County Pre-Release Center, Maryland Parole and Probation, among others.

The roundtable event generated a great deal of discussion, culminating in a list of recommendations for addressing gaps, improving communication, and increasing efficiency. The Committee has reviewed the recommendations, and is currently assessing which can be reasonably addressed, and of those, which should be addressed by this Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends continued review and assessment of the recommendations from the Domestic Violence Offender Program Roundtable, and selection of one or more recommendations to take on as initiatives.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends that the Montgomery County Domestic Violence Offender Program Roundtable event be held on a regular basis - possibly annual, or as-needed.

### **CONTINUED FACILITATION OF THE GPS MONITORING PROGRAM UTILIZED BY THE PRE-TRIAL SUPERVISION UNIT IN COORDINATION WITH THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

This year, the Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) was invited to participate in a research study being conducted by the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland Baltimore County on abuser intervention programs. By virtue of their participation, the County's Abuser Intervention Program's annual recertification is being waived. The study will consist of data collection, record review, and interviews with staff. HHS is eager to participate in the program, and the Committee is looking forward to learning the results of the study. Staying on top of current research in the domestic violence field is crucial to understanding and implementing best practices, and therefore, providing better services to the community.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Offender Program and Policy Committee recommends continued participation in the abuser intervention program research study being conducted by the University of Baltimore and the University of Maryland Baltimore County.



# SUMMARY

Through the services provided by the FJC, the monitoring of domestic violence policy, and the implementation of numerous domestic violence prevention initiatives, the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) continues to play an active and critical role in creating a safe community for families to live free of abuse. These activities and programs would not be possible without the support of DVCC agency partners, community groups and the Montgomery County FJC Foundation. In the coming year, the DVCC will continue to promote and expand existing initiatives and services as well as explore new, innovative strategies to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in Montgomery County.



## **MONTGOMERY COUNTY GOVERNMENT**

### **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2016**